

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (previously presented) A bioavailable cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex having improved bioavailability compared to a spray-dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex, which comprises:
a freeze-dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex in a molar ratio of between about 0.5:1 and 10:1.

Claims 2-4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (previously presented) The improved bioavailable complex of claim 1, wherein said cyclodextrin is one or more of α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin, γ -cyclodextrin, or HP- β -cyclodextrin.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The improved bioavailable complex of claim 1, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The improved bioavailable complex of claim 5, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claims 8-10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (previously presented) A method for improving the bioavailability of a cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex, for animal ingestion, the improvement which comprises the steps of:

- (a) forming a cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex; and
- (b) freezing drying said cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex to form a freeze-dried cyclodextrin complex having improved bioavailability compared to a spray-dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex.

Claims 12-14. (cancelled)

Claim 15. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein said cyclodextrin is one or more of α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin, γ -cyclodextrin, or HP- β -cyclodextrin.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 15, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claim 18. (cancelled)

Claim 19. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein said cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex is made for human ingestion.

Claim 20. (cancelled)